

Flurry in Capital

Intelligence Superchief: Turner's New Challenge

THE MOST SWEEPING reorganization of America's troubled spying system in 30 years—ordered by President Carter on August 4—has two major objectives.

The first is to guarantee that the billions of dollars earmarked for the nation's intelligence services are not wasted.

The other is to prevent a recurrence of the kind of abuses committed by intelligence agencies over the past quarter of a century, such as illegal activities against American citizens and questionable operations overseas.

The key to this far-reaching reorganization is the designation of a new superchief with unprecedented authority over all spying activities.

For that role the President has selected an Annapolis classmate, Adm. Stansfield Turner, whose powers as Director of Central Intelligence and head of the Central Intelligence Agency are greatly increased.

Turner will exercise decisive authority in three areas:

1. Spending. The budget for all foreign intelligence operations, spread across a half dozen agencies, will be controlled by the Director of Central Intelligence. This will enable him to curb duplication, now widespread in the sprawling intelligence establishment.

2. Priorities. A new Policy Review Committee is being set up, under Turner's chairmanship, to determine what priorities should be assigned to intelligence targets—military, political and economic. The group will include the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury and the President's national security adviser. At the same time, a new National Intelligence Tasking Center is being established, under Turner's direct control, to assign spying jobs to specific agencies—the Central Intelligence Agency, which runs a worldwide network of clandestine



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New powers for Admiral Turner.

agents; the National Security Agency, which conducts sophisticated communications intelligence, and the supersecret National Reconnaissance Office, which operates a chain of spy satellites.

3. Analysis. Sole responsibility for producing intelligence assessments of critical world issues for the President and other policy makers now rests with the Director of Central Intelligence. For this job he will co-ordinate the resources of the CIA, with its 1,600 analysts, as well as the Defense Intelligence Agency and the State Department's division of intelligence and research.

While no other intelligence chief has exercised such wide-ranging authority, Turner's powers fall short of what he sought. The President rejected his request for direct control over the National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Organization, the two most important and costly spying operations. Carter accepted the argument of Defense Secretary Harold Brown that operational control of these two organizations should remain in the Pentagon.

On other issues, too, the President is requiring Turner to share power with Brown. For example, the two men are given joint responsibility for drafting a new executive order implementing in detail the reorganization scheme.

In short, Carter handed down a split decision in the battle between Turner and Brown for control of America's vast spying system. Officials around Brown suggest that the Director of Central Intelligence has won too much power. Sources close to Turner hint that he has gained too little clout to do the job.

The final verdict, in the view of independent experts, will depend on whether Carter's Director of Central Intelligence and his Defense Secretary establish a close partnership—or whether

MIND BENDING—LATEST CIA SCANDAL

The Central Intelligence Agency, rocked by crises for nearly two years, is engulfed in yet another scandal—the revelation that it financed experiments aimed at finding ways to control human behavior.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, CIA director, told two Senate committees on August 3 that the Agency had backed 149 mind-control projects, many involving tests of drugs on persons unaware that they were under study.

Turner said the information came to light recently when a CIA employe found seven boxes of financial records that had been overlooked previously. The papers provided insight into research sponsored by the Agency over a 25-year period ending in 1973.

What prompted the studies was the fear of CIA officials that Russia had developed techniques to force prisoners into divulging information or confessing to false charges.

So the CIA launched a series of secret experiments to enable the U.S. to use similar procedures.

Medical researchers and psychol-

ogists were enlisted to work in projects with code names such as "Bluebird," "MKULTRA," "Artichoke" and "Midnight Climax."

Testing took place at 80 sites in the U.S. and Canada—mostly universities but also "safe houses" in New York and San Francisco where the CIA apparently paid prostitutes to give hallucinogenic drugs to unsuspecting men they had picked up in bars.

A principal focus of study was whether "brainwashing" could be accomplished by chemicals, surgery or electric shocks. Records made public so far indicate that the research was largely unsuccessful in providing useful information. Thousands of documents are yet to be unveiled, however.

Turner said it was "totally abhorrent to me to think of using humans as guinea pigs." He assured Senators that "the CIA is in no way engaged in either witting or unwitting testing of drugs today."

But Senate investigators say they will continue to search for those responsible for the experiments.